
BIBLES FOR HOTELS.

A Branch of the Work of a Society of Commercial Travellers.

The Gideons, a society composed of commercial travellers, have in the last five years placed more than 65,000 Bibles in more than 600 hotels. There are 100,000 members of the society, which is the Christian Commercial Travellers' Association of America and which was organized in 1890 in a hotel at Boswell, Wis., where two travelling men met and agreed upon the desirability of such an organization. The *Congressman* and *Christian World* tell of the work of the Gideons. It says:

"The morals of the 'knight of the road' have not taken as a class have not been so much to be desired, but in the twelve cities in which the Gideons have been placing a remarkable change for better." Secretary W. E. Henderson, one of the two founders of the society, says that twenty-two years ago Mr. N. W. Dennett, one of the trustees of the Gideons, learned from his travels in England that the commercial travellers of Great Britain were placing Bibles in hotel rooms. The idea seemed a splendid one, so the Gideons decided to place a Bible in each guest room of every hotel in America.

To-day they have placed over 65,000 Bibles in over 600 hotels and are rapidly increasing this number. The American Gideon Society, which supplies the books, receives three times less than cost, on account of the Gideons' demands and those of the travellers, six months behind its orders. It takes a considerable sum to pay for 100 Bibles. In many of the cities the churches have volunteered to supply Bibles. In some places prominent wealthy men have paid for the Bibles for the hotels. In Kansas City a manufacturer employing many salesmen being convinced of the value of the work supplied an entire hotel. Then too, the Gideons are travelling all over the world and up by the Holy Book in the room stand up in his mite.

The Gideons have been exploited in papers principally as distributors of Bibles. But they do much other work. They are members, active business men, and carry the Gospel to their fellow travellers from man to man. They hold meetings in hotels and have camps in most of the big cities. Their headquarters are in Boston throughout the United States in hotel managers and offices wherever they may be. The Gideons hold a service of prayer. They say the Bibles are the best thing we seldom carried off. But there are exceptions to the contrary. A bellboy in Denver took one from a room and I caught with it. "Honest, boss?" he said. "It's the best book I ever read." "I am nearly through it by this time," he said.

The New York Bible Society has in the last six months placed 10,000 Bibles in hotels. The Hotel Bible Society has sold or took 800 copies, the Bible 700 and the Hotel Savoy 100 leather bound volumes.

TOURIST LITERATURE.

I Made Booklets Got Out by the Transportation Companies.

The *Literary Digest* prints a compilation article on the transportation literature got out for tourists.

The general public, it says, "when visiting tourist agencies gets glimpses of number and variety of handsome brochures and pamphlets issued by railway and steamship companies at this season of the year. These glimpses, however, scarcely more than suggestions of splendor and extent of this class of literature."

To the office of this periodical has come within the last two weeks matter of this kind which, exclusive of all mere time tables, lists of tours, &c., numbers considerably more than a hundred items. Many of these represent the highest form of printer's art. Illustrations numbering thousands might be counted in these pamphlets. They are printed on highly calendered paper, colors are often used not only on covers but frequently in the text. Some of them are so good as may be seen in these publications is rarely found in any series of books or magazines."

The following list follows of pamphlets issued by railroads of the far West and Canada whose titles are all that could be asked for as pieces of literature. For instance: "Through Wonderland," a pamphlet on Yellowstone; "On the Wings of the Wind," "The Challenge of the Mountains," "Above the Clouds in the Canadian Rockies," "The Bread Basket of the West," "Colorado Under the Turquoise Skies," "The Land that Lures the Outrigger," "The Oregon Trail Through the Rockies," "Moose Trails and Deer Tracks," "The Eastern, middle Western and Southern Pamphlets can be least of attractive and interesting titles too, such as "The Delta of Wisconsin," "Anthracites," "Summit Homes in the Green Hills of Vermont," "Winter Time in Sumnerland," "Under the Skies in San Antonio," "Under the Skies in San Antonio."

Steamship lines have their quota of beautifully illustrated books, as "Alaska and the Arctic," "A Trip to Wonderland," "Around the World."

Some of the pamphlets containing details as to hotels and boarding houses range from 20 to 300 or more pages in length and are profusely illustrated.

W. S. Gilbert.

From the *Saturday Review*.

Dr W. S. Gilbert's place in literature is not the least interesting question that many other people ask themselves about him. It is rather what he himself remembers, since they came to manhood of womanhood, have been in that had been "Bab Ballads," "Pinafore," "Patience," "The Pirates of Penzance" and "The Gondoliers" had been produced. If there had been no Savoy operas? Was Gilbert a poet or Sullivan a musician, as the cognoscenti understand it, is undetermined. To refine and culture, who for a quarter of a century found in Gilbert and Sullivan the chief charming amusement and feel themselves enriched by them with the most treasured possessions. Gilbert is one of those rare authors whose various works are stages of one's own life. He is thus for one's contemporaries seems better known than any amount of posthumous fame.

Gallipoli, Ohio.

From the *Washington Post*.

"Very often residents of my home town when in Washington are asked the origin of the name," writes Robert Mackay Suttler, member of Congress from Gallipoli, Ohio, who has returned from Gallipoli town was laid out by a party of French emigrants in the early part of the century. They had been assured of fortune and all comforts in the land of the free, but they had rather a hard time of it before they started. They called the country Gallipoli and the town Gallipoli in honor of Gaul, which was divided in three parts, as we read in the Bible during school days. Out of this French settlement grew a good town, and several descendants of the first settlers are living there to-day."

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